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Message Text

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TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

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NODIS
CHEROKEE FOR THE SECRETARY FROM CHRISTOPHER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS)

SUBJECT: EVENING READING

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF FRIDAY'S EVENING REPORT:

1. THE HORN OF AFRICA. CY DISCUSSED THE CONTINUING BLOODSHED IN THE OGADEN CONFLICT WITH THE BRITISH, FRENCH AND GERMAN FOREIGN MINISTERS YESTERDAY. DAVID OWEN STRONGLY FAVORED CONSIDERATION OF SOME WESTERN EFFORT TO PROMOTE A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT. GENSCHER FELT WE SHOULD COOPERATE IN SUCH AN EFFORT, BUT WAS NOT SURE THE WESTERN POWERS SHOULD TAKE THE LEAD. DE GUIRINGAUD'S INITIAL FEELING WAS THAT THE WESTERN POWERS SHOULD NOT HELP THE SOVIETS OUT OF THEIR CURRENT DILEMMA.

IT WAS AGREED TO HOLD A SENIOR WORKING-LEVEL MEETING NEXT TUESDAY IN LONDON TO REVIEW THE OPTIONS FOR A POSSIBLE
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WESTERN EFFORT TO SEEK A CEASEFIRE AND AN EVENTUAL SETTLE-MENT. SUCH AN EFFORT, ASSUMING WE GO AHEAD WITH IT, WOULD PROBABLY INVOLVE SOME FORM OF COOPERATION WITH THE SOVIET UNION AS WELL AS AFRICAN AND ARAB GOVERNMENTS. THE WORKING GROUP WILL REPORT TO THE FOUR MINISTERS IN NEW YORK ON WEDNESDAY OR THURSDAY AND WE WILL DECIDE WHETHER AN INITIATIVE, PERHAPS THROUGH THE UNITED NATIONS,

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IS DESIRABLE.

2. BEGIN IN HOSPITAL. EMBASSY TEL AVIV INFORMED US BY TELEPHONE THAT PRIME MINISTER BEGIN HAS BEEN ADMITTED TO THE HOSPITAL. THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY INFORMED AMBASSADOR LEWIS THAT THIS WAS A PRE-ARRANGED HOSPITAL ADMISSION BECAUSE THE PRIME MINISTER WAS SUFFERING EXHAUSTION. IT WAS EMPHASIZED THAT THERE WAS NO CONNECTION TO BEGIN'S PAST HEART TROUBLE AND THAT, AFTER RESTING AND BEING "UNDER OBSERVATION" FOR THE WEEKEND, IT IS EXPECTED THAT BEGIN WILL BE RELEASED AND RETURNED TO NORMAL ACTIVITIES. THE EMBASSY WILL FOLLOW DEVELOPMENTS CLOSELY AND ALERT US SHOULD, FOR ANY REASON, A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT BE IN ORDER.

3. EGYPTIAN RESOLUTION ON ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS. IN AN EFFORT TO RETAIN LEADERSHIP IN THE DIPLOMATIC CAMPAIGN AGAINST ISRAEL, THE EGYPTIANS HAVE CIRCULATED A DRAFT UN RESOLUTION DEPLORING ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. SOME OF THE LANGUAGE EMPLOYED IS TAKEN FROM RESOLUTIONS PREVIOUSLY ACCEPTED BY THE UNITED STATES. ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS ARE TERMED "ILLEGAL" UNDER THE FOURTH GENEVA CONVENTION AND AN "OBSTRUCTION" TO PEACE. THE RESOLUTION WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR DEBATE IN LATE OCTOBER. IF PASSED IT WOULD INSTRUCT THE SECRETARY GENERAL TO SEEK IMPLEMENTA-
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TION OF THE RESOLUTION IN TALKS WITH ISRAEL AND TO REPORT BACK BY NOVEMBER 14. WE NEED NOT TAKE A POSITION UNTIL A FINAL TEXT IS INTRODUCED IN THE ASSEMBLY IN LATE OCTOBER.

4. CAMBODIA. PRIME MINISTER POL POT ARRIVED IN PEKING YESTERDAY LEADING A PARTY-GOVERNMENT DELEGATION. THE HIGH-LEVEL CHINESE TURN-OUT AT THE AIRPORT INCLUDED HUA KUO-FENG, TENG HSIAO PING AND OTHER LUMINARIES. IN A RELATED DEVELOPMENT, PHNOM PENH RADIO HAS BROUGHT THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF KAMPUCHEA COMPLETELY INTO THE OPEN BY ANNOUNCING A CELEBRATION OF THE 17TH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS FOUNDING. THE PARTY'S EMERGENCE MAY REFLECT THE LEADERSHIP'S BELIEF THAT INTERNAL CONDITIONS HAVE STABILIZED ENOUGH TO CONFRONT THE POPULACE WITH THE REALITY OF PARTY CONTROL. THE CHINA TRIP MAY ALS0 CONFIRM OTHER INDICATIONS OF A RENEWED CAMBODIAN INTEREST IN EXPANDING ITS RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS.

5. INDIAN OCEAN. THE SECOND ROUND OF TALKS WITH THE SOVIETS ON INDIAN OCEAN ARMS LIMITATIONS ENDED TODAY. IN THEIR SUMMATION THE SOVIETS STATED THAT WE HAVE TAKEN A

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"DEFINITE STEP FORWARD." THEY HAVE AGREED TO USE THE US PROPOSAL AS THE FORMAT FOR AN AGREEMENT, AND CLEARLY

WANT TO USE THE NEXT ROUND IN DECEMBER TO NARROW OUR DIFFERENCES, TO DRAFT PRECISE LANGUAGE, AND -- IF POSSIBLE -- TO CONCLUDE AN AGREEMENT.

THERE ARE, OF COURSE, DIFFERENCES REMAINING. THE SOVIETS HAVE NOT YET COMPLETELY ACCEPTED OUR INDIRECT ASSURANCES REGARDING SSBN DEPLOYMENTS. WHILE THEY NO LONGER ARE ASKING FOR A BAN ON ALL AIRCRAFT CARRIERS, THEY WANT A BAN ON "STRIKE" CARRIERS. WE DO NOT RECOGNIZE THIS DISTINCTION AND HAVE REJECTED THEIR APPROACH. THERE ARE ALSO DIFFERENCES CONCERING USE OF FACILITIES -- THEY

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MAY TRY FOR RESTRICTIONS ON DIEGO GARCIA CONSTRUCTION AS PART OF THE STABILIZATION AGREEMENT. HOWEVER, THEY HAVE BEEN SOMEWHAT MORE FORTHCOMING IN DESCRIBING THEIR MILITARY ACTIVITY IN BERBERA AND SEEM TO HAVE SOME FLEXIBILITY CONCERNING FACILITIES. THEY ARE STILL SEEKING A WAY TO OBTAIN A COMPENSATING CONCESSION TO BALANCE THE PRESENCE OF OUR ALLIES AND BASES IN ADJACENT AREAS.

OUR OVERALL REACTION IS THAT THE TALKS ARE MAKING GOOD PROGRESS AND THAT THERE IS A REAL POSSIBILITY WE CAN REACH AN AGREEMENT WITHIN A REASONABLE PERIOD OF TIME.

6. CANAL TREATIES. ADMINISTRATION WITNESSES TODAY CONCLUDED A WEEK OF TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE ON THE PANAMA CANAL TREATIES. SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS DURING THE FINAL DAYS OF HEARINGS INCLUDED REITERATION OF CONCERN BY SEVERAL MEMBERS, LED BY SENATOR STONE, ABOUT POSSIBLE DIFFERING U.S. AND PANAMANIAN INTERPRETATIONS OF KEY TREATY PROVISIONS. STONE, HOWEVER, NOTED THE DESIRABILITY OF ACHIEVING "CLARIFICATIONS" WITHOUT THE USE OF FORMAL RESERVATIONS, WHICH WOULD REQUIRE REOPENING NEGOTIATIONS WITH PANAMA. SENATOR BAKER ASKED ATTORNEY GENERAL BELL TO PROVIDE A WRITTEN STATEMENT CONCERNING THE LEGAL BASIS FOR U.S. INTERVENTION UNDER THE NEUTRALITY TREATY, GIVEN U.S. COMMITMENTS UNDER THE U.N. CHARTER, THE RIO PACT, AND THE OAS CHARTER (WHICH CONTAINS A BROAD PROHIBITION AGAINST INTERVENTION).

SENATORS CHURCH, CASE, AND CLARK QUESTIONED TRANSPORTATION SECRETARY ADAMS EXTENSIVELY ABOUT THE FUTURE COMMERCIAL VALUE OF THE EXISTING CANAL AND POSSIBLE ECONOMIC JUSTIFICATION FOR A SEA LEVEL CANAL. SENATORS CLARK AND GRIFFIN SOUGHT CONFIRMATION THAT THE CANAL WOULD BE ABLE

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TO GENERATE ENOUGH REVENUE TO COVER THE INCREASED PAY-
MENTS TO PANAMA. WHILE CANAL ZONE GOVERNOR PARFITT NOTED
THE UNCERTAINTIES INVOLVED, ARMY SECRETARY ALEXANDER
STRESSED THAT UPDATED TRAFFIC AND REVENUE PROJECTIONS WERE
UNDERWAY AND WOULD BE FURNISHED TO THE COMMITTEE. CHRISTOPHER

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